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The true NARRATIVE Of the Proceedings at the Sessions-house IN The Old-Bayly, For *London* and *Middlesex*.

Began on Wednesday the 16*th* day of *October*, 1678.

GIVING

A faithful Account of the several Tryals for Treasons, Murders, Robberies, Burglaries, and other Crimes there examined.

WITH

The Number of persons Condemned to Dye, Burnt in the Hand, Transported or to be Whipt; and every persons particular and respective Offence, for which they are to suffer.

With Allowance.

LONDON: Printed for *L. C.* 1678.

The Proceedings at the Seſſions, holden for *London* and *Middleſex*

FOr ſatisfaction to the Publick, and more immediately to thoſe perſons concern'd, but eſpecially to expoſe Villany, and deter vitious perſons from lewd practices by the fatal examples of thoſe who have purſued ſuch vile courſes, is this true Narrative of theſe criminal proceedings publiſhed; which be pleaſed to take as follows.

The firſt Tryal regardable, was of a young Man for killing a Gunſmith in St. *Martins in the fields*, on the 7th of *Auguſt* laſt. The Priſoner waiting on a Gentleman that had ſent ſeveral brace of Piſtols thither to trim up, coming into the Shop to look after them, takes up one, not imagining it to be charged, and holding it forth that way where the youth deceaſed was at work, on a ſudden it went off, and ſhot him in the left thigh, making a wound three inches deep, whereof, ſometime after, he dyed. There appeared not the leaſt malice, but on the contrary, a great deal of love and kindneſs between them, ſo that the Jury reciting the whole matter by a ſpecial Verdict, found that he did it involuntarily, caſually, and by misfortune.

But the next Arraignment appear'd far more black and Tragical. A Man on the laſt day of *Auguſt*, at *Kenſington*, picking a cauſeleſs quarrel with another, without any provocation that could be made appear, would needs fight with him; and often with horrid Oaths, ſwore he would have ſatisfaction, or elſe he *would ſtick him*. The party afterwards killed, was then in drink, and finding himſelf thereby incapacitated, gave good words, deſiring him to ſtay till the Morning, and then he would give him what ſatisfaction he would have; and ſet another perſon to per-

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perſwade him to that purpoſe: but nothing would prevail, needs he would fight, and ſo into the fields together they go. As they paſſed, a young man heard the perſon now dead, ſay, We were better go back and drink a pot of Ale, than fight now; whereupon, he obſerved them the more, and ſaw them go over a ſtile, the Priſoner helping over the other, he was ſo much in drink: then the Priſoner drew his Sword, and urged the other to do ſo too; but he refuſed, and ſtood ſtill with his Arms folded; whereupon, the Priſoner ſwore, *If he would not draw, he would kill him*; and accordingly gave him a wound in the Breaſt. Then the evidence being on horſeback, at a diſtance, call'd to him, deſiring him to forbear his Sword, and rather bang him ſoundly, that might not prejudice his Life: but ſtill he ſwore, he would kill him; and the other repeated, *That at preſent he was not in a condition to anſwer him, but next morning he would anſwer him*: with which nothing ſatisfied, the Priſoner made four thruſts more at him, and killed him on the place; for which cruel and unmanly Action, having nothing material to alleadge in excuſe, he was found guilty of Felony and Murder, and juſtly received ſentence of Death.

Two Women and a Man were tryed for a Burghlary in the Pariſh of *Paddington*, on the 27th of *September* laſt: the Evidence ſwore poſitively, that between two and three of the clock in the night, the two Women at Bar, and four Men, came to his Houſe, broke open his door, and the Men entring, knockt him down, grievouſly abuſed his Wife, that ſhe ſtill remains ſick; and his Mother then lying ill, they ſo ill-intreated, that ſhe was immediately taken ſpeechleſs, and ſoon after dyed; then they rifled the Houſe, took two Gold-rings, ſeveral parcels of Linnen and Cloaths, and 6 *s.* 6. *d.* in Money, which they flung forth to the Women that ſtaid without: and the Witneſs ſwore, that they were the now Priſoners, whom he well knew before, and it being then Moon-light could plainly diſcern; but as for the Men, he knew none of them. Theſe Women were acquainted with the Houſe, and one of them had been there the morning before, and ſeen moſt of the things afterwards taken, and

were persons of ill fame; one had haunted *Newgate*, the other formerly transported from *Barkshire* Goal, and came over again before the time limited, upon whom a blue Apron, part of the Goods lost, was taken; so that they were found guilty of the Felony and the Burghlary, and Condemned. As for the Man, little being proved against him, only that he brought one of them over from *Virginia*, he was brought in not guilty, but order'd not to be discharged without sureties for the good behaviour.

A Woman Indicted for stealing certain Cravats, and other Linnen, from a Gentleman whose House was burnt in the late Fire at *Ratcliff*; it not appearing they were taken with any felonious intent, but rather snatcht up in a hurrey, being then helping away with Goods of greater moment, was discharged.

A *Yorkshire* Lass, having to gratifie a sweet tooth mistaken a sugar-loaf from a Grocer's, was found guilty to the value of ten pence, and ordered to be severely whipt. 'Tis like she had not been discovered, but that when her hand was in, she went to another shop, and setting down her prize sugar-loaf on the Counter, was going to steal a suit of Flannel for Burial, as if she intended to carry some Trophies of her ingenuity into the next World with her: but the Gentlewoman of the shop spying her, prevented that exploit, and suspecting the sugar ill come by, charged a Constable with her; whereupon, the Grocer heard of the business, &c.

A Footman Indicted for stealing a great quantity of wearing Apparel, Perriwigs, &c. being instructed in the *Newgate* Doctrine, pleaded guilty to all others within Clergy, and was fairly burnt in the hand.

Two Men tryed on suspition of stealing 22 *l.* 15 *s.* out of an Inne at *Branford*, on the second of this instant *October*. The Prisoners and two others came in and shifted a back-room to to go up stairs, pretending they waited to see some friends come by; over against the Room they were in, was a lodging Chamber, lockt, but the key on the outside of the door: after spending two shillings, away they went; the other two unknown, it seems had Horses in the Town, but the Prisoners took into a

Stage-

Stage-Coach. The Master of the House, immediately after they were gone, misses his Money, which he saw but that morning, and knows of no company there but them; overtaking the now Prisoners in the Coach, he charged them: who highly pleaded innocence, that neither of them knew one of the other men, and had so little acquaintance with the other, as not to know where to find him; that the said stranger only was out of the room, which the witness confirmed, acknowledging, he saw him down stairs: so that nothing being taken upon them, nor any more direct proof made against them, they were discharged.

A lusty fellow was Condemned for a Robbery on the High-way; the case was thus: On the 10th of *April* last, a Gentleman of my Lord of *Oxfords* Troop riding alone between *London* and *Bransford*, about nine a Clock at Night, near *Turnham-Green*, on a suddain, a person starting out of an hedge, lays hold of his Bridle; and before he could ask the reason, some others behind, knockt him off his Horse, which, with saddle, bridle, and holsters, they took away, and rifled his pocket; though by good fortune, being going home, he had at that time but twelve pence about him; his Horse being turned loose, he afterwards heard of in a Pound; and some time after, going to re-accoutre himself, met with his own saddle at one shop, and holsters at another: these two Sadlers he Indicted the last Sessions; but they were quitted, proving the buying of the Goods; and one of them afterwards seiz'd the Prisoner, who sold the saddle to him, coming to sell him another saddle; so that now it lay on him wholly to make appear how he came by it: of which he could give no good account, nor of his course of livelihood or conversation; and besides, was trap'd in several different stories, so that the Jury thought fit to find him guilty of the Robbery, on which he was Condemned.

Another was Indicted on presumption of having stoln a brown Mare from a person unknown; he brought her to the *Red Lion* Inn at *Mile-end-green*, and exposed her to sale; but after a Gentleman had given him earnest, and insisted to have her vouch'd, or some account how he came by her, he could give none, but would

would have voided the bargain, nor could yet make any proof that he had any propriety in her; however, it not appearing directly that the Beast was stoln, the Jury acquitted him of the Felony.

A young fellow on the 11th of *July* last, about nine at night, prying about a Gentlemans house in St. *Andrews Holborn*, observ'd a Lady lay by a Mantua-Gown, and other rich cloaths in a low room; and leaving his shooes at door, goes in and gets them up: but she hearing some noise, cry'd out, and he was forc'd to drop them in the street, and so was taken, found guilty, and burnt in the Hand.

A person Convicted on a full evidence for stealing of a considerable quantity, at several times, of green sealing wax, was burnt in the hand.

An Engraver Indicted a young man for taking away some Tools, and other small things, but could fix nothing but a pair of Buckles; and of them the Prisoner gave a very good account, so that the prosecution being groundless, he was acquitted. As were likewise a Man and his Wife charged with two Felonies by certain people that had been their Lodgers, which upon examination, appeared wholly frivolous, and the Indictments to have been brought in revenge of an action the now Prisoners had formerly brought against the Prosecutors, who received a severe check from the Court for such their practice.

An old fellow that acts sometimes the part of an Hocus, or shewer of Tricks, was Indicted of High Treason for Clipping: coming to an Ale-house for a pint of drink, he offered a clipt Shilling, which the Victualler misliking, Here, says he, is another, shewing one much worse, and both new Clipt; whereupon, an Officer searcht him, and found a parcel of new Clippings about him, and in his Lodging a melting pot, Sizzars that would do the feat, and a smoothing stone. All he had to alleadge, was, that he took the two shillings at *London-bridge*, and had the Clippings unknown to him, amongst certain things he took in pawn for 5 *s.* which he lent a certain person that he named, but could not produce. The circumstances seemed very close

close and hard upon him, but not sufficient to prove him guilty; so he was acquitted.

Two other persons of good credit were questioned for the like Crime. Against one, nothing appeared in proof; as to the other, there happened to come to his hand a parcel of Money, wherein was a great quantity Clipt, but he gave a fair account whence he had it; nor was it possible by circumstances he could Clip it; or to discover who did, so that they were cleared, and the Money ordered to be melted down.

A woman keeping a Publick house in *James-street*, *Westminster*, indicted a lusty young Coach-man that had lodg'd there a twelvemonth, for ravishing her on Saturday the 27th of *July*, after her Husband and the rest of the Family were gone to bed. She swore the necessary Circumstances very home, but no body heard her Cry out. The fellow lay in their house several nights after, and (as was proved by divers) drank with her and her Husband on the Sunday and Munday following, and afterwards paid them a parcel of Money he owed them; and then they served him with a Warrant on this business: So that on the whole matter, the Jury did not think fit on the Evidence before them, to bring him in guilty of so vile and capital a Crime.

Nine persons, Officers of several Parishes in *Surrey*, were indicted concerning the Death of a poor man, that having gone down to work, and being taken Ill, was to be carried home to *Westminster* by a Pass. It was alleadged, that their unseasonable Conveying him contributed to his End, being in so weak a condition: But there did not appear any wilful Default in them; so that they were Accquitted. Yet not without a necessary Gaution to such persons, to be more careful for the future, not to hurry poor people out of their Parishes to the hazard of their Lives; but to provide for them in such cases according to their Duty.

There were in all Nine persons Condemned to Dye, Six Men, and Three Women, *viz.* a Souldier for Murder, two Men for Horse-stealing, one for a Robbery on the High-way; two old Thieves, one of them having been burnt in the Hand, and the other had often had Mercy, and was so impudent to go into a Gentlemans House at noon-day, and steal Goods and Plate of great value, being taken in the manner; two Women for a Burglary, and another guilty of stealing Goods above the value of ten shillings, by her own Confession. There were likewise Six Burnt in the Hand, that is to say, one for stealing a Velvet Saddle, of twenty shillings price.

Another for stealing Cloaths from his Master, to the value of Forty two pounds, by his own Confession.

Two for stealing a silver Tankard of the value of Eleven pound, in S. *Martins* Parish.

Another for stealing Clothes and Thirty shillings in money out of *York*-buildings, on *Octob.* 20. 1677.

Another for stealing Goods of great value, by his own Confession.

And one set aside for Transportation.

FINIS.

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